

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET
067083.0298

PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Joseph A. Zupanick et al.

Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ACCESSING
 SUBTERRANEAN DEPOSITS FROM THE SURFACE

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY REMARKS

Claim 1 in the present application is similar to Claim 4 of allowed U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/256,412. In particular, the drainage pattern that was recited in Claim 4 of the allowed case as comprising a "plurality of lateral well bores" is recited in the present application as comprising "one or more lateral well bores". Applicants stand by to submit any necessary Terminal Disclaimer. Claims 2-24 depend from Claim 1.

Claim 25 of the present application is similar to Claim 7 of the above-identified allowed patent application. In particular, Claim 25 of the present application additionally recites that the well bore pattern includes "a main well bore". Applicants stand by to submit any necessary Terminal Disclaimer. Claims 26-48 depend from Claim 25.

Claim 49 of the present application is similar to Claim 10 of the above-identified allowed patent application. In particular, Claim 49 of the present application

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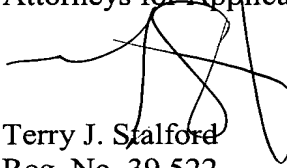
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additionally recites that the well bore pattern includes "a main well bore". Applicants stand by to submit any necessary Terminal Disclaimer. Claims 50-72 depend from Claim 49.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 25 and 49 are allowable as are their dependent claims.

No fee is believed to be due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: January 19, 2004

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